

From: [Chris Rowe](#)
To: [David Cooper/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Cc: [Bob Fitzgerald/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Chris.Rowe@westhillsnc.org](#); [Craig Cooper/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Frederick Schauflier/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Jim Vreeland/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Kathleen Salyer/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Nicole Moutoux/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Steven John/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Dana Barton/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Luis Garcia-Bakarich/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Subject: Re: SSFL Site Concerns
Date: 05/15/2009 01:10 PM

David,

I agree with most of what you said. "If Chris led you two, or anyone within earshot, to believe that she did not have a voice in the SSFL process, I'm sorry"

I did not allude to anything that implied that we were not in contact - quite the contrary - I raved about the EPA.

It was these gentlemen that do not know the background of our site that were trying to explain my options to me.

They had just run into Thomas Johnson and Stephie Jennings, and Thomas told them that you were the lead for the gamma surveys et al. So they may have assumed it was Superfund.

You know how complex this is. Yes, I have been shouting for assistance to all for this site due to the complexities.

As far as Dan goes, I only got negative feedback from the EPA from the Workgroup incident. I have not gotten any personal negative feedback from the community members after that incident. Nor have any other agency leaders questioned it. In fact - some said - "he never answered your question."

I do have several government officials that are upset with me because they do not like the way that I have addressed the question of Dan's credentials. But again, he was addressed as Dr. Hirsch at the LARWQCB meeting again last Friday. That implies that the Board believes him to be a full professor. He states that he "taught" at UCLA, and that he teaches "Nuclear Policy" at U C Santa Cruz.

What we are talking about here is a highly specialized area of training - nuclear physicist or health physicist in regards to health risk. I am unable to determine what training he has in either issue.

David - you have gone out of your way to be nice to me. We have people being frightened right now because of the presentations that are happening in Oak Park by SSFL community members telling people that their cancers are related to the SSFL. And they are going everywhere.

Please see the articles in the ACORN:

<http://www.theacorn.com/news/2009/0423/community/005.html>

http://www.theacorn.com/news/2009/0507/front_page/001.html

<http://www.theacorn.com/news/2009/0514/letters/011.html>

<http://www.theacorn.com/news/2009/0514/editorials/007.html>

Yes, I am trying to get the electeds and the agency leaders to assist me and others in understanding what the true risks are from the SSFL site to the community - off site.

At the LARWQCB Hearing I testified that some people who live in the Knolls and have water on their property - who have been involved in this for 20 years - have never had their properties sampled. And many of these people have cancer. So yes - I want to understand the current risks today from the site.

Many of these residents are long term residents. I have no idea what they have been exposed to. I don't know what their cancers are. We do need someone with a health background to clarify these issues to the community.

Thank you to all.

Chris Rowe

On Fri, May 15, 2009 at 11:03 AM, <Cooper.David@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

Bob --

We have a long and robust history with Chris Rowe. She is very aware of the TASC meeting on 26 May (she was a by-name invitee) to address the complex documents issue. SSFL is not on the NPL, so the TASC must take the place of a TAG. Regarding the balance of community perspectives, to assure that her issues and concerns are factored into EPA's work, the two RPMs, Nicole and Craig, (and myself) are in constant contact with Chris either through e-mails and on the phone (sometimes multiple times per day) and she is on our mailing list for site updates. I think that she's referring to the Interagency Workgroup, which is dominated by Dan Hersh and facilitated by an EPA contractor. The two agree on the need to clean up the site, but disagree strongly and publicly on the current risk to the community. By challenging Dan publicly at the Interagency Workgroup, Chris has received a negative response from the attendees. She is always free to speak at the meetings, and did so at the most recent Workgroup meeting a couple of months back. However, it did get very testy and the facilitator intervened when Chris attacked Dan's credentials to be the community leader (he and the NRDC successfully sued the PRPs). Recently Chris tried to create an elaborate separate forum to discuss SSFL, issues, an all-day affair where she invited many high-ranking electeds and gov't officials. The effort collapsed and the giant meeting was not held.

If Chris led you two, or anyone within earshot, to believe that she did not have a voice in the SSFL process, I'm sorry. She attended EPA's December rad kick-off meeting and I interviewed her for the CIP. We have kept her involved throughout this recent effort.

-- Dave

From: Bob Fitzgerald/R9/USEPA/US

To: David Cooper/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

Cc: Chris.Rowe@westhillsnc.org, Nicole Moutoux/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Craig Cooper/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Jim Vreeland/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Steven John/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Frederick Schaufliet/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathleen Salyer/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 05/14/2009 11:03 AM
Subject: SSFL Site Concerns

Hi, David.

Steven John and I attended an open house at Senator Feinstein's LA office yesterday and met Chris Rowe from the West Hills Neighborhood Council there.

Chris spoke with us about her concerns with the SSFL site and we suggested to her that she may want to partner with you to help address 2 of her concerns.

One of her concerns is that her neighborhood council receives large and complex SSFL site technical documents but doesn't have the expertise to review and analyze these documents. We suggested that perhaps the Superfund program's technical assistance grant opportunities may be a good way to help.

Another concern is that there appears to be an imbalance of community perspectives being communicated about the site, particularly at public meetings. We suggested that she may want to contact you and partner with you to develop tactics to address this issue - by fact sheets, the community involvement plan, or perhaps even by facilitating the meetings in a way that ensures that all perspectives are given equal time.

I hope you find this helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Bob

213-244-1814 (voice mail server down, please use email if reply needed)